CHAPTER XV

ANTI-SEMITISM

(1) OEIGIN

HATRED of the Jews, or, as it is loosely called, anti-Semitism, has existed ever since the beginning of the Diaspora. Before the Emancipation of the Jews the hatred and contempt shown to them received a certain measure of official sanction in that the State refused them rights enjoyed by other inhabitants and treated them as aliens of inferior status. But a social dislike against them continued even after their legal Emancipation, and the upper classes of society have been reluctant to admit them into their ranks.

The original source of Jew-hatred is in the group instinct which—like the herd instinct of animals—welds men connected by common descent, language, customs, and interests into a harmonious community, but causes them to distrust and dislike members of other groups. The Jews came to Europe as strangers, and remained so by reason of differences in descent, religion, culture, and occupations. Nor, till the Renaissance, had they any reason to wish to obliterate or renounce their alien character—they were representatives of an ancient Eastern civilization in the midst

of the more primitive Western culture. The hatred of the Jews could therefore develop as part of the general xenophobia which permeates history, ancient and medieval, and after a short interruption in the age of enlightenment and cosmopolitan-
ism, has now reappeared in the form of an exaggerated
nationalism. The man who works for peace within his own group is respected, and so is he who acts as an enemy to strangers. Primitive tribes judge and esteem a man accord-